

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **SB 2810 - HB 2711**

February 12, 2000

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation to issue a stop work order for any silvicultural activities that fail or refuse to use forestry best management practices. Provides that the stopwork order remain in effect until the owner or operator repairs damages and installs forestry best management practices that eliminate and prevent further pollution. No stop work order may be issued or suspended without the concurrence of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Allows the violator to file a written request with the Commissioner within 10 days of receipt of notice. If no request for hearing is filed within the 10-day period, the stop work order becomes final and would not be subject to review. Failure to comply with a stop work order shall subject the owner or operator to a penalty of up to \$10,000 per day for each day during which the stop work order applies. Requires the commissioner to promulgate appropriate rules to implement the issuance of a stop work order. Such rules are to be presented to the Water Quality Board no later than January 1, 2001.

### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant**

**Increase State Revenues - Not Significant**

Estimate assumes:

- an increase in expenditures to investigate reports of violations and to hold hearings. However, based on responses received from the Departments of Environment and Conservation, and Agriculture, any such cost is estimated to be not significant and can be absorbed within the departments' current operating budgets.
- revenues from the collection of penalties from violations of the act would not be significant.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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